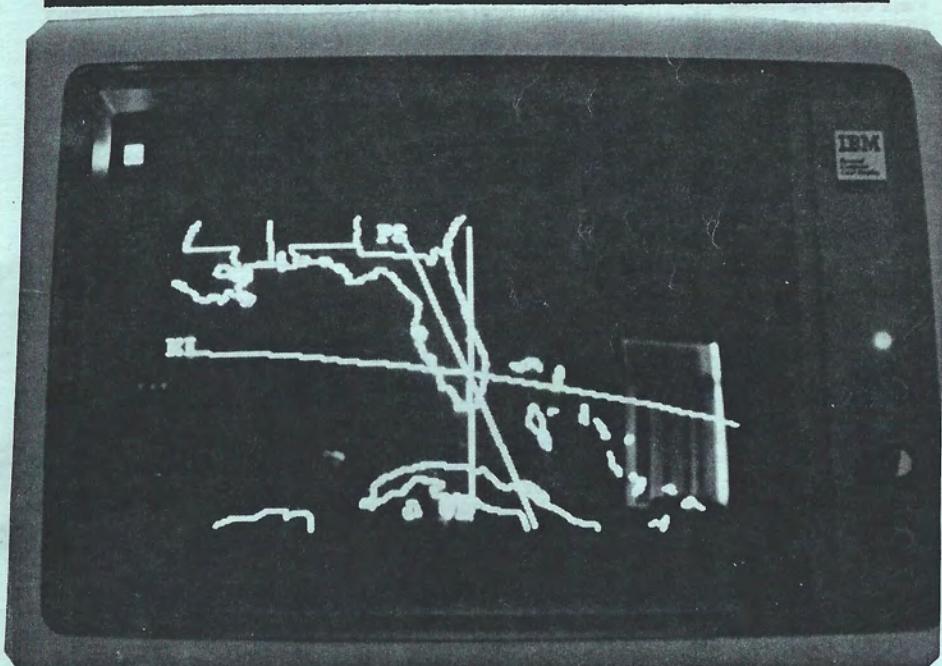


SEPTEMBER '89

*The*  
**ACE**



In this issue . . . .

- Havana Moon joins the A\*C\*E
- Don Bishop explains new FCC DFing gear
- News about the bust of Radio Caroline
- A new larger bulletin, with the latest & most comprehensive coverage of pirate and clandestine news by our six editors.

# on the cover

This picture shows a monitor screen displaying bearings taken by three FCC monitoring stations to triangulate the source of a radio signal.

Map outlines define Florida and Cuba. Bearings pass through the signal source and monitoring stations at Kingsville, Texas; Powder Springs, Georgia; and Vero Beach, Florida. (The smear on the right of the screen is reflected light from a window.)

ACE member Don Bishop of Overland Park, Kansas, took the photo during a demonstration of long-range HF radio direction-finding equipment at the Vero Beach station.

A computer program processes bearings taken by a network of monitoring stations and displays the triangulated area on a choice of several maps: continental, national, regional and local. The picture shows a regional map. The local map displays a shaded area that defines bearing error and calculates the area within which the source is located.

Welcome to the September issue of the A\*C\*E. The input to the column has been great this month, and I'd like to thank all A\*C\*E members that have been actively contributing to the bulletin. \*\*\*\*\* Please spread the word!..... the ONLY address for the A\*C\*E is our current location in Shawnee Mission: P.O.B. 11201, Shawnee Mission, KS. 66207-0201. For reasons beyond my control, mail sent to the old Baton Rouge address may not get forwarded. If you know of anyone trying to contact us, please pass this address along to them. \*\*\*\*\*

## DIALOGS

by Kirk Baxter

## SEPTEMBER

Welcome to the September Dialogs column. I'd like to thank all of the contributors to the column. There seems to be a lot of activity, so turn on your radio!! \*\*\*\* Please remember to use GMT (UTC) date and time in your loggings. \*\*\*\*

## NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

WKND: 1621.2, 7/23, \*0400-0457, SIO=434. Simulcast on 6239.9. Rock & pop mix relig talk. Presume PA addr; no addr hrd. (RICHOLSON,VA)

## NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE

CHGO: 7390, 7/19, 0448-0512, SIO=354. Jeff Airplane type mx. OM DJ spoke low & softly, so hard copy. DJ was Long John Silver & was using 10 to 12 watts de Chicago, but soon hoped to run 1 KW. Nice sig. Seemed to be more power than that. (YODER,PA) 7395, 7/23, 0518-0530+, SIO=322. Janis Joplin-type mx & simple IDs. On w/ WKND, World Mx Radio, & KRUD. PSE QSL. (YODER,PA) 7400, 7/25, 0352-0406+, SIO=344. Classical & spacey mx. ID rpted. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/31, 0438-0534+, SIO=444. Sig distorted & bassy. Mostly Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here." Hardly IDed; mx was putting me to sleep! (YODER,PA)

Experimental Propagation Radio: 7294v, 8/3, 1715-1900\*, SIO=322-344. Young OM annncr gave correct CDT TCS. Rock mx & singing E-P-R jingles, said several times "With the best damn rock & roll on the planet, this is EPR, experimental propagation radio." "This is EPR xmitting from Grandview, Manitoba, Canada, this is EPR." "Experimental Propagation Radio, with 100,000 microwatts of power." Said they would be on every day 12-3PM Central Time, but recheck next day proved negative. No addr. Hvy ham QRM and complaints. (PYM,DC via ANARC BBS)

Free Radio One: 7415, 7/11, 0215. Same John Lewis pgm. Weak w/ bad QRM. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/14, 0300, SIO=444. Called IRS "The Golden Mean Team." Gave addr of POB 773, Missoula, MT 59807. QRT mid sent. YL said you would receive "enlightening" info from request. (LATHEROW,VA) 7415, 8/3, 0103-0130\*, SIO=423-. YL ID w/ OR addr; UPI nx to 0105. OM ID. Anti-tax & disc of gov't corruption & homosexual

prostitution in White House (sic). Mentions of Ohio Rep convicted w/ sex w/ girl. Bad QRM de buzz noise on 7415.7. (ZELLER,OH)

Hullo Radio: 7419.8v, \*0313-0402, SIO=454. Appeared to deliberately QRMing WDOG until off at 0320. IDs sounded like "Hull Radio." Began songs at 0326. Bit on 1972 solar eclipse & Britis comic skit on watching eclipse. Offered a message from the Swedis prime minister w/ slapping sounds. At times, seemed to be in SSE Nixon resignation bit. Mentioned TV stns, WQAD (Moline, IL), WPBT WTON, etc. "I Love TV" skit at 0401. (RICHOLSON,VA) [See UNIDS also]

KNBS: 7412, 7/30, 1838-1852\*, SIO=152. Lucky catch! Urine tea skit, plug for ACE @ new addr, Fruit of the Loom News Briefs. Hl addr. S/off over Aldo Nova mx. 1st time! (YODER,PA) 7411.2, 8/5 2017-2036\*, SIO=242+. Var rock. Commentary by Phil Muzik w/ ID & "Free Radio Relay Stn, KNBS." California Marijuana Coop editorial & failure of "War on Drugs," incl plug for NORML. Also plug for ACE "The Stn with Your Mind in Mind." Hilo addr. (ZELLER,OH)

KRUD: 7415, 7/13->14, 2358-0035+, SIO=333. 1st hrd giving IDs over UNID on 7415. Mostly Led Zep & Zappa. Ad for Chernobyl Chick'r Xmtx kept going off; seemed to boost power to try to overcome splatte from WSHB. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/14, 0348-0358\*, SIO=555. Zappa mx IDs. Strong, but overmod. (YODER,PA) 7420, 7/19, 0240-0251+ SIO=444. Rock mx. Quick power off. (GATES,NC) 7415, 7/19, \*0336 0425\*, SIO=444. Followed R. Clandestine. OM annncr "Megaman" gas freq as 7.415 mHz. Zappa mx & Beaver Falls addr. Briefly dropped carrier for congratulations, supposedly from R. F. Burns. (GATES,NC) 7415, 7/19, 0348-0407\*, SIO=433. Zappa mx. "Hi" to R. F. Burns (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/20, 0208-0216\*, SIO=444. "Mr. Roach Clip, president of United Heads rebutted anti-marijuana editorial. PA addr At QRT, said "somebody pick it up here," but no other stn hrd (GATES,NC) 7415->7420, 7/23, 0505-0541\*, SIO=444. Mostly Led Zep mx. Bit on legalization of pot. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/31, \*0235-0240+ Zappa mx & skit on legalization of pot. Faded into QRM. (YODER,PA)

QSO de various pirates: 7415, 7/19, \*0407-0442\*. PRN, Garbanzo KRUD. QSO interspersed w/ pgming. Strange!! (YODER,PA) 7420, 7/30 0603-0645. No pgming this time - pure QSO. Talked abt nxletters moving freq to 19m & sig rpts. Hrd PRN, Garbanzo, WTNV & unid st from S. New Hampshire. Interesting. (YODER,PA)

Radio Clandestine: 7390, 7/10, 0503-0534+, SIO=423. Lots of promos IDs, ads, etc. Kingston addr. T-storm QRN. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/15 0402-0458\*, SIO=444. Stones, Beatles. Asked for demo tapes. Said "Hi" to named listeners. (YODER,PA) 7355, 7/18, 0322-0334+, SIO=434. Mentions of crew & Chataqua. Beatles & Three Dog Night. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/19, 0204-0315+, SIO=423. Baez mx & var ads. Fun; killed t CW #s stn. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/19, 0205-0238. Good sig. Rock mx Baez featured. Funny ads. NY addr. (ROSS,ONT) 7416, 7/19, 0217 0336\*, SIO=333. 60's mx (incl Cher), ads for leftovers, baby cleaner etc. Annnd as from "the poop deck of the good ship Clandestine." "Ca you see us..." at QRT. (GATES,NC) 7355, 7/25, 0314-0359\*, SIO=423. T by Stones & Tull. R. F. talked over them, w/ weird comments abt Gc & 666, etc. Hope he isn't possessed. (YODER,PA) 7355, 7/28, \*0300 0330+, SIO=312. Poor sig. Mx by Doors & Tull. (YODER,PA) 7415 7/29, 0250+, SIO=343. "We're Radio Clandestine... if you don't like it, we have a torpedo just for you." IS of barking seal. Faded out (LATHEROW,VA) 7355, 7/29, 0308-0355, SIO=423. Usual. Not great sig IS only hrd at 0400. (YODER,PA) 7422, 7/29, 0345+, SIO=444. Seal again, w/ stronger sig. Annnd as strongest sig on SW. NY addr Spoof ads, one for Ramco Petroleum: "We may not have all the answers but we're big enough to be questionable." Boris the Cat w/ ad for Wa Bam Cat Food. Could not find Stones record. (LATHEROW,VA) 7411.2 7/30, \*0244-0252\*, SIO=434. On after R. Garbanzo. Power on & off several times. Strange series of xmsns & off. Unknown if "real Clandestine. PSE QSL. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7411.2, 7/30, \*0244-0252+ SIO=343. Brief xmsn after R. Garbanzo s/off. Usual IS & Worf, t Klingon officer on the Enterprise gave stn ID. "Dreamboat Annie." riff from "The Heat is on" played continuously. (ZELLER,OH) 7355 7/30, \*0300-0328+, SIO=444. Usual R. F. Burns rock & sketches Zeller listed as "last, but not least of those sending rpts to stn. Good sig but tough WHRI slop de 7365. S/on immed after WRNO s/off (ZELLER,OH) 7419.4, 7/30, \*0345-0421\*, SIO=444. Similar s/on as 024

of ID. Addr incl "PO Box" but no copy. Zip possibly 61694. Lots of AM/FM possiblly de R. Cland.(PRN). Not sure if they were playing mx or if from RC. Freq was a mess w/het squeals. (RICHOLSON,VA)

IKND: 6239.9, 7/23, \*0400-0457, S10=544. Simulcast on 1621.2 kHz. Rock/pop mx & religious talk. No addr hrd, but presume still PA. (RICHOLSON,VA) 6240, 7/23, 0401-0427. Rock mx w/ DJ Radio Animal. (Also hrd on 1621.3. Used Dr. Who theme. Relig pgm w/ Bro. Jim. ROSS,ONT) 6240, 7/23, 0409-0419\*, S10=243. Fair/good sig on 6240, but little audible on 1621. Strange pgm w/ talk on Bible. (YODER,PA) 6240, 8/12, 0525-0545. Said would play excerpts from 1st bcst of RNI. Hrd QSO w/ RF Burns. Extremely weak sig. One clear ID. (SACHS,IL)

Zodiac Radio: 7422.5, 7/26, 0529-0746. Moderate sig, S-6 to S-9. DJ was Frank Mirauder w/ Hilo addr. Oldies incl Beach Boys. Amos & Andy comedy. Some big band mx. (RALEIGH,NV) 7422.5, 7/29, 0620-0653. Weak sig for 70's rock (Santana, Aerosmith). OM anncr w/ ID. (RALEIGH,NV) 7422.5, 7/29, 0422-0550. S-5 to S-9 sig this bcst. 70's rock incl Led Zep, Doobies, etc. Anncr was Frank Mirauder, w/ Hilo addr. (RALEIGH,NV) 7416.2, 7/30, 0300-0438. S-5 to S-9 sig. Usual mx. Had mailbag show w/ letter from Las Vegas asking abt Zodiac's eqmt. Said they were using a Heathkit 40W xmtr w/ 1/2 dipole antenna. Tech advisor is Mr. Gator. (RALEIGH,NV) 7422.5, 7/30, 0647-0653. Same songs, varied order. Boring. (RALEIGH,NV) 7422, 8/5, 0547+. In to pgm of female vocals de 30's & 40's & male vocal like Tiny Tim. Anncr audio much lower than mx. Hilo addr w/ request for 3 stamps. Amos & Andy at 0600. Fair sig, but mod needs boost. Tnx to Raleigh for phone tip on this one. (HELMS,CA) 7416.3, 8/14, 0510-0540. Same boring mix of 70's rock. I've hrd this several times before. (RALEIGH,NV) 7423, 8/17, 0218-0340. DJ Frank Marauder. Went to 7417 at 0222 but lost to jamming. (PIERCE,CA) 7423, 8/22, 0146-0206. "Addams Family" & "Leave It to Beaver" TV pgms. Beaver wouldn't eat Brussels sprouts. Off in mid-sent. PopComm addr. (PIERCE,CA) 7423, 8/22, 0303-0528. Beaver ate sprouts. Hilo addr; Octoberfest & Swing mx. Old "War of the Worlds" pgm. Dead air. (PIERCE,CA)

#### ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Radio Caroline: 6215, 7/29, 0303, S10=333. British-accented anncr w/ rock mx. Very little talk. Only song recognized was "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." (LATHEROW,VA) 6215, 8/13, 0423-0500, S10=322. Anncts in EE & FF. Mentioned long list of Europirates & freqs w/ R. Dublin still on list. (RICHOLSON,VA) CRAUDY CAROLINE HAS BEEN BUSTED!!! News from George Zeller: "Radio Caroline was busted 8-19-89 at 1330 by a strike force of the Netherlands Coast Guard. WMR various mentioned that the British, French and Belgian authorities monitored the bust, but did not participate in it. Some or all of their xmtrs were confiscated, and the 6215 kHz xmtr was not on the air 8-20. WMR reported that the Captain and Chief Engineer were "beaten up" by the "thugs from Holland." The Captain accused the Dutch Coast Guard of "piracy" for boarding a registered ship in international waters without the Captain's permission. The Dutch claimed that the Caroline MW xmtr QRMed licensed Euro MW broadcasters and that 6215 QRMed UTE maritime calling freq channel 606 (6215.5-worldwide supplemental distress & calling freq). The WMR anncr called it a dark day for free radio, but he pointed out that he expected them to return to the air, since they always have following previous busts over the last 20 yrs." SEE FURTHER NEWS FLASHES LATER IN BULLETIN!!!!

Weekend Music Radio: 15042.3, 7/23, 0147-0330, S10=423. Audio broken, but OK recept. of pgm de Scotland to N. Am. Addr of 42 Arran Close, Cambridge, England. Maybe a tape repeated over and over. Mentions of other pirates, incl R. Dublin. (RICHOLSON,VA) 15043, 7/23, 0243-0303\*, S10=243. Decent sig w/ long talk by OM; many IDs. Mentions of various listeners. Nx on R. Caroline; correct date given. Sig vy poor by 0420. "Weekly Report" said WMR was on from 0000-0700 UTC. Nice to get this one. (YODER,PA) 15042.6, 8/5, 2243-2322, S10=555. Amazing sig. Claimed 80 watts instead of normal 100. Mentioned letters from many places incl West Coast. Pirate radio nx incl info that stn FM100 was on FM100 and MW; Atlantic 252 is testing on 254 kHz w/ tones; R. Dublin is still on the air on 1188 and 6190. Greetings to Fine Tuning. Noted their mail needed no postal code.

0400-0415+, S10=252+. On regularly lately on Sat n Scotland. Scottish folk mx & rock. (ZELLER,OH) 0600, S10=444. Slight CW QRM but otherwise an astou from this pirate 1Ding as from Scotland. Called svc, claiming also to have European svc. Read letter and mentioned ACE. (PYM,DC via ANARC BBS) 15042.9, S10=252+/353+. Special xmsn to N. Am. and the wor the way from Scotland to the world." Whole sh yesterday's bust of R. Caroline. ITN nx (UK) yesterday. Dutch "raided" at 1330, w/ support (?) of gov'ts. Xmtr confiscated. Capt. & chief engineer be from Holland." European bcstrs said to have compla QRM. Capt. accuses Dutch of piracy - boarded a ship WMR had several US rpts. Best sig from them. (ZELLE

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1620.1, 7/23, 0141-0142\*, S10=424. Only hrd SS so in mid song. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7412, 8/13, 2228-2230\*, S10=212. Could barely make end of xmsn. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7413, 1, 0530-0548, S10=222. All mx. Would gues album; 5 sec pause between songs. Lost at 0548. (TW 7414.3, 7/31, 0500-0530. Very weak, unreadable s jazz mx. Zodiac Radio? or an east coast pirate? (RA 7414.9, 8/6, 0218-0228. Could hear some mx but not lightning. (SPOONER,MA) 7415, 7/13, 0204-0210+. Good sig at first w/ YL faded away before ID. (YODER,PA) 7415, 7/20, 0158-0208. Live rock concert mx. Funny Cancer Society & spot for Mr. Dope America contest. killed them. No ID hrd. PSE QSL. (ROSS,ONT) 7420, 8/20, 0300-0307\*, S10=343+. Two folk/rock song Dylan. Good sig & mod, but no talk or ID. (ZELLER,C 7415.6v, 8/5, 0258-0310\*, S10=222-. Vy weak in loud trumpet mx, in 40's swing style. S/off partially h (?)... maybe we'll be back, and maybe we won't... Ft Name sounded like a one-syllable word but not copied QSL. VFO drifted up 200 Hz. (ZELLER,OH) 7417, 8/13, 0411-0421\*, S10=222. Rock mx & annnc make out any ID. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7417, 8/13, 2241. Captain on &-off. No audio. (R 7419.3, 7/30, 0510-0520. Very weak unreadable sig, and male anncr. An east coast pirate? (RALEIGH,NV) 7420, 7/23, \*0326-0400\*, S10=444. Jammed WDOG off t w/ Python & Nixon speech. Ended w/ TV s/offs. "Helllllllooooo Radio" in SSB. No guts to ID. (YODE 0330-0406\*, S10=432. Comedy abt eclipse of sun. Hrc s/offs. ID garbled. "Hello Radio" or something & Gone at 0406. Ad for Northwest Svgs. (PEARSON,NY) 7420, 7/30, 2104-2127\*, S10=151. Pop mx & OM talk, t Any ideas? (YODER,PA) 7422, 8/3, 0714-0729\*, S10=141. Static crashes made bcst impossible. Some talk & mx. "You're liste 7.4?? mHz... If you would like to send a reception addr w/ request for 3 stamps. PSE QSL. Any ideas? 7431.5, 8/18, 0052-0100\*, S10=222. OM EE annnc between selections of Scottish or Irish instrum Gaelic mx, generally w/ flute but some bagpipes. C weak sig, QRM & QRN made vox copy very difficult. I like V. of the Celt & Sons of Ireland. PSE ID & QSL 7490, 7/31, 0112-0115\*. Hrd faint country/western s

#### PSE QSL ADDRESSES

Ira Richolson, 1600 South Eads St., Apt. 1030N, Apt. Robert Ross, Box 4373, Stn. C, London, Ontario Steven Sachs, 2720 Ft. Sheridan Ave., Highland Park Mace Twigg, Rt. 3, Box 130C, Crosby, MN 56441.

That's it for another month. See you in another 30

of ID. Addr incl "PO Box" but no copy. Zip possibly 61694. Lots of QRM/het possibly de R. Cland.(PRN). Not sure if they were playing mx or if from RC. Freq was a mess w/het squeals. (RICHOLSON,VA)

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7417, 8/13, 0411-0421\*, S10=222. Rock mx & annmmts, but unable to make out any ID. (RICHOLSON,VA)  
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7419.3, 7/30, 0510-0520. Very weak unreadable sig, but could hear mx and male anncr. An east coast pirate? (RALEIGH,NV)  
7420, 7/23, \*0326-0400\*, S10=444. Jammed WDOG off the air. Started w/ Python & Nixon speech. Ended w/ TV s/off. Other jerk saying "Hellooooo Radio" in SSB. No guts to ID. (YODER,PA) 7420, 7/23, 0330-0406\*, S10=432. Comedy abt eclipse of sun. Hrd "Telstar" and TV s/off. ID garbled. "Hello Radio" or something w/ "--oh Radio." Gone at 0406. Ad for Northwest Svgs. (PEARSON,NY) [See Hullo Radio.]  
7420, 7/30, 2104-2127+, S10=151. Pop mx & OM talk, but no copy of ID. Any ideas? (YODER,PA)  
7422, 8/3, 0714-0729\*, S10=141. Static crashes made copy of most of bcst impossible. Some talk & mx. "You're listening to Radio (?) 7.4?? mHz... If you would like to send a reception rpt..." Gave Hilo addr w/ request for 3 stamps. PSE QSL. Any ideas? (TWIGG,MN)  
7431.5, 8/18, 0052-0100\*, S10=222. OM EE anncr talked for 1 min between selections of Scottish or Irish instrum folk mx. Perhaps Gaelic mx, generally w/ flute but some bagpipes. Copy OK on mx, but weak sig, QRM & QRN made vox copy very difficult. No ID hrd. Format like V. of the Celt & Sons of Ireland. PSE ID & QSL. (ZELLER,OH)  
7490, 7/31, 0112-0115\*. Hrd faint country/western song. (SACHS,IL)

#### PSE QSL ADDRESSES

Ira Richolson, 1600 South Eads St., Apt. 1030N, Arlington, VA 22202; Robert Ross, Box 4373, Stn. C, London, Ontario, Canada. N5W 5J2. Steven Sachs, 2720 Ft. Sheridan Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035. Mace Twigg, Rt. 3, Box 130C, Crosby, MN 56441.

That's it for another month. See you in another 30 days. 73s.....

Amateur radio operators play dual roles  
in pirate broadcasting adventures

By Don Bishop  
P.O. Box 4075  
Overland Park, KS 66204-0075

In early June, the FCC called upon several U.S. radio amateurs to help test high-frequency (HF) radio direction-finding (RDF) equipment. Among them were Karen (KA0CDN) and Glenn (W0IJR) Schultz in Aurora, Colorado.

Karen and Glenn received a telephone call from FCC engineers in California who were participating in a test of interferometer RDF equipment made by Zeta Laboratories of San Jose, California.

"The caller scheduled a time for a five- or 10-minute test," Glenn said. "Karen operated the station. It was around noontime, and the frequency band was 15 meters, as I recall." Glenn said he thought his and Karen's participation in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) field organization had something to do with their selection for the test. The two serve as official observers and as coordinators for the official observer program. The ARRL provided the FCC with a list of amateurs living near selected major cities.

Interferometer is 'small'

John Hudak, chief of the signal analysis branch with the FCC's field operations bureau, explained the test. He said the interferometer the bureau was testing has some advantages: "For example, it uses small area, it is a simple array, and its makers claim it has high accuracy."

Current FCC HF RDF equipment installed at monitoring stations is fixed and covers considerable land area that must be made flat. The interferometer is less sensitive to terrain that is not flat. The RDF equipment Zeta makes is "deployable," meaning it can be moved readily from one site to another.

"The Zeta equipment was targeted to the military, which might want to set up quickly for RDF. The Zeta employees came in one afternoon and set up in a half-hour or an hour."

In addition to measuring azimuth, the interferometer measures elevation, "although you have to use an atmospheric sounder with it to DF (direction-find) with a single-site system," Hudak said. The sounder sends a signal straight up and measures the time it takes to return to earth from the ionosphere, thus determining the distance to the refractive atmospheric layer.

Distance calculation

Because the interferometer measures the elevation angle of the arriving radio signal of unknown origin, it is possible to calculate the distance to the signal source. "The accuracy still isn't as good as triangulating," Hudak said, "but it is just another factor that can help improve accuracy. In those cases where you hear the signal at only one monitoring station, the ability to calculate the distance to the source puts you in the ballpark."

Hudak said that if the signal arrives via multiple "hops," i.e., by refracting more than once from the ionosphere and reflecting one or more times from the earth, the distance calculated with the use of the interferometer "probably is not going to be accurate at all."

Whether the signal arrives by one hop or multiple hops is determined to a certain extent by the frequencies involved and the time of day, Hudak said. The more experienced the RDF equipment operator, the better the interpretation.

He said amateur radio operators were selected for the tests because what were needed were "unknown targets": signal sources whose origins were unknown to FCC operators. "If you get standard signals you know will be on the air, the operator has some bias in knowing where the target is. We needed targets no one could identify by frequency and where they were at. The amateurs offered a ready source of signals at short notice and agility of frequencies and times that made them ideal," he said.

The test also made use of some government stations and some foreign stations. "In in those cases," Hudak said, "we weren't able to get up special signals for us, but we tried to pick out ones that are less readily recognized."

The results? "The test set we ran compared favorably to direction-finders we presently have," Hudak said.

Finding pirate broadcasters

The FCC brings its RDF equipment to bear in efforts to trace pirate broadcast signals to their sources, although heavy demands for enforcement in other kinds of radio operations mean pirate-chasing episodes are "occasional," according to Hudak.

"We have a list of pirates we are working on constantly," he said. "We pay attention to station identification and program content only as a matter of categorizing and keeping track of pirate broadcasters. Our concern is the potential for interference problems."

Hudak noted that the most popular frequencies seem to be 6240 kHz and 7415 kHz, "although pirates are found elsewhere in the AM, FM and HF bands."

One difficulty the FCC faces in tracing shortwave pirates is that the agency's mobile RDF equipment has poor sensitivity in the HF range. "Sensitivity is a major problem because we try to keep the RDF equipment inconspicuous. That forces us to use antennas with small elements that do not have the 'pickup.' But for HF direction-finding, we have the advantage of a network of fixed monitoring stations with long-range RDF capability," Hudak said.

The field operations bureau relies upon its fixed monitoring stations to take bearings and triangulate the area where a broadcast originates.

"Once a mobile RDF unit is in that area, normally the signal is strong enough to be picked up," Hudak said. If the broadcast discontinues before the mobile unit arrives, sometimes the FCC operator waits to see whether it will resume.

Normally, the mobile RDF unit operator does not stay in communication with the network of fixed FCC monitoring stations because initial bearings are highly accurate. "We get very good fixes on the sources of pirate broadcasts, but the bearings do not identify the house, for example, that may conceal the transmitter," Hudak said. "You have to get somebody in close to ID the house. The availability of travel money and personnel being what they are, it is hard to track pirate broadcasters who use rural locations."

Apparently, the FCC has ample pickings in populated areas, though. "New York has always been one of the more active locations for pirates," Hudak said.

Pirate hams

Although some amateurs help the FCC with its RDF tests, other amateurs form part of the ranks of pirate broadcasters.

On June 8, an FCC engineer monitored a radio station operating on 7415 kHz from the residence of Herbert Meyers (K2LPK) in Massapequa, NY. Neal Newman (KA2CAF), an FCC document reads, assisted in the station's operation.

continued on page 23

RD #1, Box 10A  
Belfast, NY 14711

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the media report

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Although Ms Anthony was speaking on behalf of the women's suffrage movement, her words ring true in the Free Radio Movement with regards to the FCC. The Federal Communications Commission is totally without legal or Constitutional authority, yet it often steals equipment without due process of law and/or extorts money from American citizens, bullying them into compliance with its arbitrary Rules. Few people alive today had any voice in the Broadcasting Act of 1934, or the formation of the FCC. In fact, the FCC has historically been controlled by RCA/NBC executives for the benefit of their profitable industry, and the Public be damned.

Consider the Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The most important words here are "by the Constitution"; the FCC was created by an Act of Congress, NOT the Constitution, so they are without any Constitutional authority. An Act of Congress is not a Constitutional amendment, after all.

Additionally, Richard M. Smith, head of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau, stated in an interview published in Business/Radio, August 1986,

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tips for broadcasters

- or -

how to sound better without hardly trying

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Many stations exhibit poor audio on the microphone. In some cases this is caused by an impedance mismatch or the lack of adequate pre-amping in the mic line. In other cases it's the result of poor mic technique. For decent dynamic or condenser mics, you should stay about a hand-span from the windscreens (a hand-span being the distance from the tip of your thumb to the tip of your little finger with your fingers spread wide), then speak in a normal conversational voice and adjust mike gain as needed. If you're going to shout, back off farther from the mic - if you're going to whisper, move closer to it. To be understood more clearly, speak from your belly, not from your throat. It helps to sit up straight (no slouching!) or even stand in front of the mic. You want to project from as far down in your body as possible. In addition, speak slightly slower than you normally do, exaggerating mouth movements for full-bodied sound. Remember, the listeners won't see any of this; but they will hear the difference.

It also helps to ride mic level a bit higher than the music level. Bear in mind that music is full-fidelity, ranging from about 20 to 20,000 hertz, while voice is limited-fidelity, ranging only from about 300 to 3000 hertz. With the limited bandwidth you need to push it a bit more for a full and smooth 100% modulation level.

Since you've already shelled out \$100 or so for that old Johnson rig and probably about \$50 more for antenna wire, insulators, co-ax and all, we heartily recommend that you spend another \$70 for the cheaper Radio Shack #32-1100A stereo mixer (get the AC adaptor while you're at it). This gem comes equipped to handle two mics, one tape deck and two turntables, but if you plug 'em into the ceramic phono inputs you can run three cassette decks instead. Rather than use discreet mics, rig two 1/4" phone plugs onto a single mic and plug into both inputs. That way you can leave the mixer in 'stereo' while having the mic on both channels. This mixer has dual VU meters, making it a cinch to keep your

# Veried Response

John T. Arthur, proprietor  
RD #1, Box 15A  
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that "the FCC is not law enforcement...", an admission that the FCC has no legal authority. Yet, in the Radio Newyork International case, US District Judge McNaught of the Massachusetts District Court ruled (1) that the FCC is Constitutional and (2) that the FCC has jurisdiction over "all transmissions by radio which originate and/or are received within the United States." The first ruling is claimed to be valid under the Commerce Clause, which is an obvious falsehood since the FCC was established to administer and regulate broadcasting in the PUBLIC interest, convenience and necessity, not in the interest of Commerce. But notice the expanded coverage of the second point; this would appear to give the FCC unlimited power over broadcasts from about three-quarters of the globe, including Radio Habana, Radio Moscow, and even military transmissions. This is patent nonsense, and the so-called Judge should know better. Does the FCC plan to raid military installations to inspect and license obviously out-of-band transmitters and/or seize illegal and non-type approved equipment? Are they going to insist that the over-powered, frequency-hogging Voice of America restrict operations to registered frequencies and keep modulation within approved limits so they don't appear all over your shortwave radio? Will they inspect and fine WSHB for obvious technical malpractice which causes them to splatter all over the 41 meterband? Do they plan to force Radio Habana to comply with their petty Rules and Regulations to protect the money-hungry broadcasting industry here in the USA? That would be a laugh, and I'm sure both Fidel and the Pentagon are chuckling at the very thought.

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levels fairly even - just ride gain to keep things as close to 100% as possible without going too far over. It even has built-in cueing, for that professional touch.

For further modulation control, we also recommend some sort of a limiter, with or without compressor. There are surplus military and commercial units floating around, or Panaxis offers their 'MMC' unit (about \$130 wired), or look around for the old Shure M62 and M63 at hamfests and second-hand stores. The M63 is an amplifying equalizer (called the Audio Master) which drives and supplies proper voltage to the M62 limiter (called the Level-Loc).

Many stations set up a studio which is not directly connected to the transmitter, and produce all their programs on cassette. This makes things fairly easy - all you need to do is connect a single cassette deck to the xmtr, and away you go! Occasionally there is a minor problem with RF feeding into the system through the audio or (more often) power line(s) from the tape deck. One way to correct this is to obtain some toroid choke cores (Radio Shack #273-104, two for \$6.95) and wrap as many turns of the offending cable through the forms as will fit. Normally, about five turns of the AC cord will eliminate the problem. If you use a live mic, you might want to do the same thing with the mic cord.

Considering the price of transmitting tubes these days, it is a jolly good idea to promote circulation when you're on the air. Leave plenty of air space around, under and over the rig, and feel free to improve things with a cooling fan. However, DO NOT blow cold air onto the tubes; use the fan to pull hot air off them. There are thousands of surplus 'muffin fans' around which will do the job quite well, but use them as exhaust fans. Blowing cold (or even warm) air onto the tubes can actually shorten life, and that will cost you more money in the long run.

Don't forget that you have to match your rig to the antenna. Most ham gear is designed to match a 50-ohm line - which is ridiculous when you consider that the most common antenna (the half-wave dipole) is about 75-ohm impedance at the feed-point. You need either a tuner or a balun to match properly. Tuners are available from almost any ham store, or from MFJ. The best source for baluns is Palomar Engineers, PO Box 455, Escondido, CA 92025. They have one style available in eleven different ratios to match almost any antenna system. For the atypical half-wave dipole order PB1.5, which is a 1.5:1 (or 3:2) ratio. Cost is \$23.95, plus \$4 for shipping. Write or call (619) 747-3343 for their free catalog.

If you have further questions on station improvements, feel free to write. This data is presented for the information value to our readers only, and should in no way be misconstrued to indicate that either The ACE or this writer advocate or condone illegal activities.

"The government's got a satellite now that let's 'em read a postage stamp from outer space, but so far they still haven't noticed the national debt."

--Oxnard N. Tharp

Off the Wall....  
the rumor center

Eddie Egghead Johnson, of the Voice of Stench, would like us to tell you that all 20 reception reports they received were verified within five days of receipt. They appreciate your interest. Eddie sez that they are looking for new frequencies to use, since 7415 is so busy and heavily QRMed by the CW numbers station on 7413 and WSHB slop from 7400. They are considering some frequencies in the 6800-6900 kHz range and 19 meters. He also points out that the Voice of Vietnam has a better QSL track record than WCPR does...

Word from Phil Muzik is that KNBS is testing on the 19mb in the early afternoon and would appreciate signal reports. He also says that they have sent out their very last green cannabis fiber card, and will be sending their new tan cannabis fiber cards with their pennants. Please remember that you MUST enclose three first-class stamps (two or three IRC's if out of the US) to get a reply...

Yet another press release from Mr Blue Sky was received at this QTH, this one announcing renewed activity in the 41mb. Seems he locked himself into a commercial radio station production studio for three days, drank himself into a stupor and managed to produce two new programs before the owners axed the door and dragged him out. Keep your ears peeled...

Fearless Fred regrets to announce that Radio Garbanzo's tests on the 12 meter band apparently went unnoticed, and that activities on that band have been discontinued. A total of eight transmittions were made during the previously specified hours, and not one report was rcvd. Harry Helms must have been scuba-ing at the time, tsk, tsk...

Speaking of Harry's plea for more activity in the 12 meter band, the following stations have (or do) operate in that range, and might be audible - if you're not under water:

Spectrum Leisure Communications - 25796.5

Radio Orion - 25995 (Sat & Sun, 1100-1300)

Fantasy B/C Station - 26610

WEAK - 26905

KREC - 27515

Radio Europe - 27827 (Tues - Fri, 0800-1200)

That should give you something to shoot for when you get rid of your swimmer's ear...

Not to pick on Harry, but I have to question his conclusion in the August edition of Covert Corner. While it does appear that the over-powered CW numbers station is getting feedback from the monitoring station, does he really believe that a Habana-Moscow link would be bothered by a flea-powered domestic pirate broadcaster? A more likely conclusion is that it is actually a Guantanamo Bay-Warrenton, VA, link, operated by the Navy for military or intelligence purposes. If so, they run far too much power for the job - and it's still unlikely that the typical Nam pirate could cause any interference...

Personal Notz: To Tim Suess, WI - your unID on 7414.8, 7/19>7/20 is Radio Comedy Club Int'l. Send your report via either BF, PA, or thru me. To Terry Provance, OH - your unID on 7415.5, 7/3 is Voice of Stench. Report via BF, PA.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* under the door \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Ontario's Bob Ross adds to his collection of non-veries with a no data sales brochure from Free Radio One - 7415 in three weeks from the Medford, OR, address. Hand-written on the outside was "QSL will follow". New Yorker Mark Smith brought in a full data tan cannabis fiber card (#45) from KNBS - 7410 signed by Phil Muzik in 24 days. Sed it was the first of the new cards issued. [hey, a collector's item, yeh? jta] Ohio's George Zeller tacked up a frequency only 'Pancho with gun' card from the Voice of Pancho Villa - 7375 signed by Pancho and Cisco in seven days along with a humorous cover letter from Pancho, and a personal letter from Dave Lincoln of Red Rose Radio stating that the broadcast heard was "part of our 12:30 - 2 p.m. programme on the 24th May - a full 11 days before the pirate broadcast..." in 59 days by surface mail. [didn't QSL, tho? jta]

Virginia's Steve Rogovich snagged an unsigned full data gold embossed certificate from Free Radio One - 7415 in 86 days. [good to hear from you, keep in touch...jta]

Georgia's Bud Wooten nailed down an unsigned full data gold embossed certificate from Free Radio One - 7415LSB in about three months. Ye Olde Editor received a full data 'various types of excrement' sheet from the Voice of Stench - 7415 signed by John Isa Toilet in 12 days with a personal letter for the obligatory three stamps, a second full data 'zapping your dial' paper card from WKZP - 7415 signed by Sparky for the same old reception - but with the correct date this time, a plain white letter from RFM - 7400.6 signed by H.V. Short in 21 days, a very nice gold-embossed certificate from Free Radio One - 7415LSB in 45 days with a note apologizing for the delay from Dr. David Richardson, a full data 'know your bean' sheet (#25) from Radio Garbanzo - 7411 signed by Fearless Fred (PD) in 25 days, two full data 'clowns' sheets (#16 & 17) from Radio Comedy Club Int'l in about one week.

73s and best of dx...

#### CLANDESTINE PROFILE by George Zeller

Your information and loggings of clandestine radio stations are always welcome for this column. You can mail it direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2045 UTC.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

For September we start off with three random remarks. First, your editor apologizes for the unorthodox appearance of this month's column. We have a temporary problem with the word processor print wheel, and a substitute type face had to be forced into action. Hopefully, the column will be legible.

Second, I want to thank Kirk Baxter in writing on behalf of all A\*C\*E members. Kirk has been very active in A\*C\*E since the very beginning of the club, and he consistently edits the best pirate loggings column that is published in North America. In recent years, Kirk has also done yeoman work as President of A\*C\*E. He voluntarily operates the A\*C\*E (now also ANARC) computer BBS, he handles all club correspondence, he represents A\*C\*E in ANARC, and he publishes and mails the monthly A\*C\*E bulletin to all subscribers. During the mid to late 1980's, Bill Martin and Keith Thibodeaux also contributed greatly to A\*C\*E through their volunteer publishing work. But, when both Bill and Keith faced problems caused by excessive professional workloads, Kirk stepped in to fill the gap. All A\*C\*E members want to thank Kirk for his excellent service to all club members.

Third, we have all noticed that Kirk's efforts have successfully moved the A\*C\*E bulletin publication schedule back to a regular pattern, with the mail delivery of the A\*C\*E bulletin coming early in every month. Once again, Kirk Baxter deserves most of the credit for this very positive development. Thanks, Kirk! However, A\*C\*E column editors (both veterans and a fine list of new writers) and the entire A\*C\*E membership are also involved in the process of gathering and preparing information for each issue of the bulletin. We all deserve a pat on the back! A\*C\*E remains the best comprehensive monthly source for information on unlicensed radio broadcasting and DX-ing that is available to North American radio hobbyists, and this is very good to see!

#### FREE RADIO ONE

Last month we discussed the status of this relatively new pirate (or semi-clandestine) station. A\*C\*E DiaLogs is still brimming with loggings of this broadcaster, which has now been on the air for a few months. Nevertheless, many questions remain unanswered about this interesting but puzzling station. All clandestine stations are difficult to fully understand until such time as detailed information becomes available on the organization that is responsible for their broadcasts. The sponsor of Free Radio One is still somewhat murky, but additional information is gradually surfacing.

During mid-August the mailman delivered a Free Radio One QSL to me. It is one of the best looking pirate/clandestine QSL's that I have ever seen. The QSL sheet is a brown award certificate (with embossed gold letters highlighting the station name and Oregon maildrop QTH) that has been professionally printed. It shows the date and frequency from my reception report, but it omits the time. This certificate's design features "God Save America" in large letters, and it quotes biblical passages from John 8:32 and Revelation 14:6. The envelope arrived bearing a Knoxville, Tennessee postmark. The very nice certificate did not have a verification signer.

Enclosed with this very attractive QSL was a cover letter apologizing for the QSL delay, which was 95 days in my case. They said that they had been waiting for the QSL's to arrive from the printer. Dr. David Richardson signed the apology letter, and he also enclosed a coupon good for \$3 off on any merchandise offered for sale by Free Radio One. (See the August A\*C\*E for their price list). I sent in for a subscription to their "Link" newsletter, which costs \$12.00.

The QSL cover letter mentions that in addition to their regular 7415 KHz frequency, Free Radio One can also be heard on 4005 KHz, with a listed schedule of "betimes" (sic). This new frequency, just above the 80 meter ham band, is worth checking out.

Gerry Dexter of Wisconsin showed me a copy of one FR-1 publication titled "What to Do When the FCC Calls, Part I," written by Dr. David Richardson. (The "Dr." is listed as a law degree). This book contains 36 pages of suggestions to pirates for dealing with the FCC, annotated with extensive case law citations. A six page outline for a video tape "Home Study Law Course" on 15 VHS tapes is also included, as well as a sample poster to hang out front of the house in warning to the FCC or other law enforcement authorities. (The tapes are available for \$15 each from the Medford, Oregon address). This publication is designed in something that approaches a law textbook format, and it therefore differs somewhat from John Arthur's excellent Free Radio Handbook publications that have been published over the years. Part I and Part II of Richardson's book sell for \$20 apiece, so caveat emptor.

Unfortunately, this book reveals little about the sponsoring organization of Free Radio One, except that it confirms that Dr. David Richardson is a key figure in the group. Perhaps the newsletter will be more informative in this regard. As is now well known, correspondence to the station and orders for any of their merchandise should go to 3434 North Pacific Highway, Medford, Oregon 97501. Their unusual policy is that checks are not accepted for anything; cash or "its equivalent in silver" is required.

#### RADIO TRUTH

This month we are setting a record for column inches devoted to clandestines that broadcast in English, and that can be easily be heard in North America. A\*C\*E member Bob Ross of Ontario checks in with a logging of Radio Truth on July 22 between 0433-0510\* UTC on 5015 KHz. Bob notes the "best signal ever on this" station. Male and female announcers discussed Zimbabwe military troop issues, Mugabe, Apartheid, Harare, and farmers. Their sign-off announcement had a trumpet fanfare, the station schedule, their bird call interval signal, and "goodbye for now from the staff of Radio Truth."

Bob's good signal report should send many of us up to the 60 meter band to check out this station, which is undoubtedly sponsored by the government of South Africa. Their signal levels could improve even more in the fall, as seasonal propagation openings to Africa improve.

#### RADIO PATRIA LIBRE

This fascinating but still mysterious ELN-supported anti-Colombia station continues its nightly activity. I heard them August 7 on 6755.0 KHz from 0100-0113\*. Their frequency is generally stable during each broadcast, but from night to night they tend to move +/- 15 KHz around the 6760 KHz range. Clear Spanish language ID's, male and female announcers with shouting anti-Colombian government talks, and local folk music selections are the staple programming fare. Unfortunately, clandestine QSL expert Gerry Dexter informed me in mid-August that nobody has a solid lead on an ELN address that might be valid for the station.

#### Bayrak Radio - NORTHERN CYPRUS

Your editor has realized that he has been dipping a little too heavily into the DX tuning oil while writing this column during the last couple of months. Page 171 of the 1989 edition of the World Radio and Television Handbook has complete station data on this broadcaster, which we discussed as a semi-clandestine station in July and August. Their current listed shortwave service is scheduled on 6150v KHz in Greek, German, Arabic, and English from 1000-2200 UTC, parallel to 1494 KHz MW and 87.8, 92, and 105 MHz FM. They use a 7.5 KW shortwave transmitter that is located at Yeni Iskele, Northern Cyprus.

Apparently the only people who consider this station to be a clandestine are the Greek Cypriot government of Cyprus and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation. Thanks go out to A\*C\*E members Gerry Dexter of Wisconsin and Rich D'Angelo of Pennsylvania, as well as to Don Jensen of Wisconsin, for tips on this information.

The Bayrak shortwave transmitter is an extremely difficult DX catch in North America. Except around December and January when darkness predominates on most of the Cyprus-North America path around 2200, propagation to the USA is generally unlikely or impossible from this station, given its time schedule. Also, its low power and the high level of QRM on 49 meters do not help matters. However, the WRTB lists an address for them, indicates that the station welcomes reception reports, and says that they verify with a QSL folder.

#### RADIO QUINCE DE SEPTIEMBRE

Despite the recent political agreement of five Central American Presidents that certifies the military demise of the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan Contras, and the concurrent drastic cuts in official financial support for the Contras by the United States government, Radio Quince de Septiembre is still on the air. You can look for their easily heard signal on 6214.4 KHz. They put a good level into Cleveland around 0000 UTC, and they also can be heard on this frequency in the morning.

#### IRAN FLAG OF FREEDOM RADIO

Several months ago, A\*C\*E member Rich D'Angelo of Pennsylvania sent in a copy of a fascinating English language pamphlet distributed by Iran Flag of Freedom Radio. The pamphlet, written in excellent English (probably by the CIA), describes detailed covert techniques for overthrowing the government in Iran (in conjunction with the use of broadcasts from the station for this purpose). Rich correctly points out that in a "Clandestine Profile" column some time ago, we promised a future discussion of the details of this pamphlet. Time and space do not permit this in September, but stay tuned!

continued on page 22

# HAVANA MOON



HAVANA MOON, c/o Harry Helms  
7445 Andasol St., San Diego, CA 92126

Hi...

I'M HAVANA MOON!

And I'm not so vain as to think that I need no introduction to the readers of ACE!

I began this writing gig some years back on the pages of the now defunct NEWARK NEWS RADIO CLUB BULLETIN with Dr. John Santosuoso. Since that time I have written a couple of books (two more are in the works) as well as countless magazine articles for various publications. And not all articles carried the name of Havana Moon.

Some of these publications include POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS, MONITORING TIMES and CLANDESTINE CONFIDENTIAL.

If you would like an interesting catalog of unusual radio related books (just so happens that my two books are listed in this catalog), send \$1.00 and a #10 SASE to:

TIARE PUBLICATIONS  
P. O. Box 493  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

I have been on the "talk show" circuit with other "talk shows" now in the planning stages. I have been featured in PENTHOUSE (not the centerfold), '73 AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE (August edition) and THE FESSENDEN REVIEW just to name a few.

But the most important publication is ACE. And the most important readers are ACE readers. This will be a "fun thing" as well as -I would hope- an educational thing.

The column belongs to you. So get those intercepts, comments or whatever to me by way of the Harry Helms address at the top of this page.

There is also an alternate method to communicate. It's a unique method of which I am very proud to be a part of. It's reports by electronic mail (E-mail).

Readers who have access to electronic mail systems can access Havana Moon with reception reports, comments and related material via the following electronic addresses:

suniportal1cup.portal.com!havanamoon  
--or--  
havanamoon@cup.portal.com

Please note that the above electronic addresses MUST BE followed in the EXACT FORM as indicated above.

PORTAL system users may address Havana Moon direct in the following manner: HAVANAMOON. PORTAL supports ALL end-user systems including Commodore.

Commodore only users may address Havana Moon E-mail via QuantumLink (Q-link) in the following manner: HavanaMoon.

For further information on PORTAL Online Communications service, send your inquiries to:

PORTAL COMMUNICATIONS CO.  
Dept. P  
10385 Cherry Tree Lane  
Cupertino, CA 95014

--or--

Call customer service at 408/973-9111 for further information.

Computer users with access to Fidonet may contact Havana Moon in the following manner: 1:280/3. Responses should be directed to HAVANAMOON.

This form of communication as related to the monitoring hobby is an idea whose time has come! That is my opinion, anyway. There are some few of you who may think differently.

Commodore users desiring further information on QuantumLink (Q-Link) may obtain further information from:

QuantumLink  
6620 Westwood Center Drive  
Vienna, VA 22180  
Phone: 703/448-8700 (In Canada: 1 703 883 0788)

I would prefer reports via the U. S. Postal Service to be printed or typed. Please double space typewritten reports.

And I would ask that you maintain a very close watch on FEMA, NASA and the Voice of America "feeder" frequencies. Numerous "numbers" have -in the past- been reported on these frequencies.

And I would prefer if you would follow the following reporting style: 6826 kHz 0500 UTC day/date YL 5-D SS  
(The above is an actual intercept.)

You may, of course, include other comments or suggestions. I am most receptive to your ideas.

Your reporting style via E-mail is up to you. I'll be checking the various services at least once a week.

And it just might be that I will -from time to time- give away a book for what I consider the most informative numbers reception report or idea.

Reports from the "super spooks" of NSA and the "not-so-super-spooks" of the CIA are more than welcome.

A final suggestion: Be sure and catch Dr. John Santosuoso on the pages of MONITORING TIMES. John's most excellent column appears on a monthly basis.

And then there's the geeks of Harry Helms' Umbra et Lux. Those geeks being Harry, myself and . . .

And -once again- Dr. Santosuoso is NOT Havana Moon! Harry Helms is NOT Havana Moon! Harry Helms is actually Tom Bodette of Motel Six fame. And Elvis is really Havana Moon! But there is a distinct possibility that Havana Moon is not Elvis. And if Havana Moon is not Elvis then Harry Helms is actually Guido Calhoon of El Segundo. Now that makes sense.

Thanks for allowing me aboard.

And be sure to watch for Havana Moon on the pages of POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS, CLANDESTINE CONFIDENTIAL as well as other publications.

And if you really try, you just might catch me for a cup of coffee at the Denny's on the beach.

Time now for a Tecate and . . .

Havana Moon y Amigas

33469

Harry L. Helms AA6FW  
7445 Andasol St.  
San Diego, CA 92126

## COVERT CORNER

We're trying some things a bit differently this month, including going to a slightly smaller type size to conserve bulletin space. Let me know what you think of it, OK?

Even bigger news this month is that Havana Moon is joining the ACE editorial staff!! The plan is for His Mysteriousness to assume responsibility for the numbers-related material. I will be refocusing this column more on the unusual non-numbers stuff such as "pulsers," unidentified networks, and related activity which has not been previously covered in detail. The transition will take a couple of months to iron out, so please be patient as we iron out the details. The mighty Mr. Moon is working out a system whereby he can receive mail and input directly from ACE members. In the interim, I'll be happy to forward any items you might wish to send to HM. Use my address above and please enclose a stamped *unaddressed* envelope!

.....  
Here are this month's loggings:

7415 "T87 484" repeated in CW 0240 8/17. (Dan Bishop, KS)  
7588 3/2-digit English numbers by female announcer 7/20 from 2319 to 2343 sign off.  
Strong signal, some QSB. (Lance Pearson, NY)  
8187 "Atencion 428 02 07: 0611 8/11; "02 50" introduces five-digit Spanish groups.  
Later, "07 23" was followed by more five-digit groups until 0624 sign off. The  
voice was androgynous, possibly female. (Mark Pierce, CA, who notes that it  
"sounded like it was next door.")  
10125 "Charlie India Oscar 'Emahl' Two" from 0045 to 0051 sign off 8/8. (George Zeller,  
OH, who notes these stations use A3H--USB with reduced carrier. Many numbers  
stations likewise use A3H. Has anyone ever analyzed the correlations between the  
phonetic alphabet and numbers stations and AM/A3H?)  
13385 KKN39 calling ACA50 at 1448 and KJB69 at 1518 in CW. (Dave White, ME)

14536 "Awful racket, like RTTY and fax and marbles in a blender" 7/31 2345 zero-beat on  
this frequency but extending from 14352 to 14358. (Lance Pearson, NY)  
#####

I received a letter this past month from George Zeller regarding my comments in last month's column on the danger of pirates using 7415. Some of George's letter went like this:

"I though I'd comment on your speculation on the danger to pirates because the NSA might want to monitor the CW numbers blasters without pirate QRM. First, the FCC can always bust a pirate if they put their resources to a top priority, so caution is always advisable for all pirates. But, I doubt the CW numbers stations add much (if any) to this risk. The numbers signals easily blast way over pirates--the QRM is intermittent and negligible from pirates. Second, my multiple (if second hand) sources at the FCC say that pirate busting is a low priority there nowadays. They are overworked and understaffed due to Graham-Rudman budget cuts. Some FCC monitoring posts DX pirates for entertainment, just like an ACE member might!"

"WRFT is not much evidence for your speculation. In work for the Pirate Directory, I count 58 different pirates so far this year. Two have been busted (WHOT and WNPR), neither of which used 41 meters. Last year, two 41 meter pirates were busted: CBOR and WRFT. CBOS was on daily for hours at a time with horrible modulation that generated TVI complaints. Curtis of WRFT was on a regular time/frequency schedule that he published in prominent DX publications. (Keith Thibodeaux censored this sked in ACE, which Curtis sent out in a *press release*) I unsuccessfully tried to dissuade him from this sort of regular operation during a phone call from Curtis last fall. If most busts took place on 41 meters (which they aren't at the moment), it would be expected, because that's where three-quarters of the stations operate."

"So, caution is always advisable for pirates, but I do not feel that the NSA or CIA would be any particular reason for extra caution. WRFT and CBOR were busted for excessive regular activity, not because they got some NSA's monitors ears in trouble....."

"I almost forgot. As you know, "Charlie India Oscar X-ray Two" is in the 30-meter ham band, and I don't see the NSA trying to kick the hams out...."  
Time out, folks. Let me cool down a second here. Not only is George disagreeing with me, *he had the gall to make this fact known to me!!!* The mere thought of this perfidy is enough to make me develop *unusual* *facial tics*. It's a good thing for George that I can't locate any fellow members of the Col. Oliver North Volunteer Citizen's Border Patrol near Cleveland in the directory; otherwise, this thing would be settled my way.

Actually, I'm going to do something unusual here and divulge one source for my comments last issue. I do so because my source is unfortunately dead. Those of you interested in computing may have known Kent Porter, the senior technical editor of *Dr. Dobb's Journal* who died of a stroke in late May. I had gotten to know Kent through my good friend Jon Erickson, who is the editor in chief of *Dr. Dobb's*. Kent was a fascinating guy in many respects, not the least of which was that he had previously been a monitor for Russian language traffic at NSA HQ at Ft. Meade! I tried to get juicy info out of Kent regarding NSA and what he did, but Kent played it close to the vest. (While this disappointed me, I would have been even more disappointed had he talked freely.) Kent did say, however, that when there is domestic QRM to a signal that interests NSA they go to the FCC and, whenever possible, the FCC will take action. The FCC cannot move against legitimate users (as with the hams currently on 30 meters) but can move against illegal stations or order stations to move to other frequencies under variety of pretexts. (As I noted last month, the FCC kept hams off a segment of 30 meters when the band was first opened at the request of NSA.) The FCC isn't the one who detects the QRMing signal--the NSA is.

The degree to which a pirate or other station might be a problem to NSA monitors would depend upon the strength of the station at a NSA monitoring post. There are quite a few of these scattered around the country. (I have one here in the proverbial "backyard" at Imperial Beach, which is listed on maps as a Navy communications station.)

I echo George's comments 100% that the FCC doesn't give a hoot about pirates. The NSA cares even less. But if you show up on frequency where there's something they want to hear, you're walking on thin ice. Since we know there's something interesting on 7415, why not QSY and be a bit safer???

I'll end this with a most interesting story Kent told. His birthday fell on a Saturday a few years ago, and he had the night shift at Ft. Meade listening to Russian-language traffic from Cuba. He was, as you might expect, not exactly in the best of spirits at having to spend his birthday--and a Saturday night at that--at work. He was listening to some rather routine traffic being passed by the Soviet Navy. There was a break in the traffic, and one of the stations in the net abruptly sent the following in Russian: "We wish happy birthday to Kent Porter, who is listening to us tonight at Fort Meade."

I asked Kent how they knew this. He wouldn't say, and I couldn't tell if it was because he didn't want to divulge the answer or because he really didn't know. Kent kept the secrets well!

Kent was a most extraordinary guy who died long before his time.

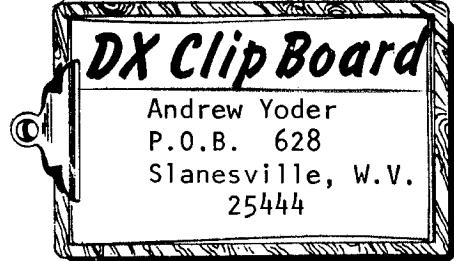
-----  
This month's required reading is *Spycatcher* by Peter Wright. Among the book's more fascinating passages are those involving Wright's early involvement with the UK's Radio Security Service and their efforts to track down spy transmitters in the London area. There are also details on how the Soviets managed to monitor MIS's "Watcher" radio communications system used to keep track of known or suspected Soviet agents in London. And, aside from the radio-related lore, the book itself is an engrossing peek into the operation of a counterespionage service!

That's all for this month. Have a great month and report! 73!

Harry

Msg#: 131 \*FREE RADIO\*  
06/03/89 15:44:21  
From: MARC THOMAS  
To: ALL  
Subj: NEW RADIO HOTLINE

There is a new radio information line starting. Anyone can listen or leave loggings of pirates, AM, FM, +SW stations, utilities, VHF+UHF, or anything else you feel would be of interest. This is NOT a computer BBS, but a telephone voice mail system. You only need a touch tone phone to access it - NO MODEMS. There is no charge till we get enough people signed up and all will receive a 30 day FREE trial to decide if you like it. After that we do request a \$10 a year donation. If you are interested please call (201)-906-4758 and leave your name, address, and phone number so that we can send you the information about the CENTRAL NEW JERSEY DX HOTLINE.



Andrew Yoder  
P.O.B. 628  
Slanesville, W.V.  
25444

Please note Andrew's  
NEW address in W.V.

**Important:** My address for DX Clip Board, Pirate Pages, Radio Clandestine T-shirts, all of the stations who use me as a maildrop, and of course, me has changed (See top of page). A new maildrop address should be opened for stations formerly using the Beaver Falls address by the time you read this. Don't worry about letters sent to Beaver Falls; I'll still get 'em forwarded thru to me. Thanx. I hope this move doesn't inconvenience you very much!

Yow, July was definitely a hot month! I checked the totals out (# of different broadcasts & different stations heard). In all, it was more active than any single month in the six years that I've been DXing. So, if you run into some SWL who constantly reminisces of the "good ole days" of 84-5, let 'em know that those days are NOW!

Actually, I don't believe that the CIA is as dangerous to pirate broadcasters (see August's *Cover Corner*) as are common people. WRFT and CBOR both used 7415 kHz and were busted.

However, both stations were (1) very active (2) broadcasting for hours at a time (3) and very close to FCC monitoring stations. But I think what is most alarming is (4) that both stations were busted within a week after they began using wideband linear amplifiers.

I've gotta believe that some family got totally PO'ed when "Wheel of Fortune" got wiped off their TV set by some guy talking. After a few calls, the FCC came in & the interference disappeared.

Actually, that old woman next door could be more dangerous to a station than the CIA, NSA, or a Toyota full of #s listening spies!

Another Commercial: Radio Clandestine t-shirts are still available & I'm gonna leave at \$8 to ACE members only for another month. Also, my book "Pirate Radio Stations: Tuning in Underground Radio" will soon be coming out on TAB Books (it's listed in their fall catalog). It's 192 pages & costs \$13 softcover or \$20 hardcover. I believe I'll be able to sell it at a \$1 discount, but more info should be out on this in next month's ACE.

Here's some info I just got..EUROTEST: Rainbow Radio Germany will be testing on Sept. 9/10 from 2300-0600 UTC on 6314 kHz. He may also try 7484 or 7490 kHz. Power is at 35 watts. He also plans to test to North America in the winter months (details coming). Their address is: Postbus 65027, NL-3002 DA Rotterdam, Holland.

According to Weekend Music Radio's program on August 20, Radio Caroline has been busted by Dutch authorities. Unfortunately, I was unable to hear the entire broadcast from WMR concerning the raid.

Apparently the Dutch authorities were upset with interference that the station (on 558 kHz) was causing to the legal services in that country. So the station was closed down on August 14. It is believed that some of the transmitting equipment was confiscated from the station.

At this point, all of the transmitters (AM, FM, and shortwave) are off the air. It is not known when/if the station will return to the air or where the station's broadcasting vessel, Ross Revenge is located.

Radio Caroline is the symbol of European free radio because it was the first station to bring popular rock music to the continent and because of its longevity. After merging with Radio Atlanta in 1964, Radio Caroline brought the new music of The Beatles, The Who, and The Rolling Stones into the public eye. Infact, these blockbuster groups owe a lot of their success to Radio Caroline.

Even after the British government virtually destroyed offshore radio with the Marine Offences Act in 1967 (which heavily fined or imprisoned any British citizen who worked on an illegal station), Caroline marched on with a foreign staff.

Pop/rock music was stomped out through the 70's. Although the format slightly changed from time-to-time, Caroline never faltered at the sight of bad weather, poor advertising revenues, or government intervention. But the ship found a stronger opponent in the North Sea, which sunk it (Mi Amigo) in a storm in 1980.

But even the loss of the vessel, the broadcasting studios, and the powerful transmitters failed to keep Radio Caroline off the air. With a large backing of American dollars, the station returned with the Ross Revenge and revamped equipment in 1983. Since then, the station was a regular on 576, then 558 kHz.

North Americans were treated to their first taste of Caroline in early 1988, when the station opened a shortwave transmitter on 6210 kHz. Since that time, the station was heard nightly with fair to good signals across Eastern North America.

Considering that Radio Caroline was the inspiration for land-based pirates in Europe and it also inspired many of the late 60's North American stations (which in turn inspired some people who are still pirating on our continent), this bust is significant.

Even though it may be the end of Radio Caroline, the station will surely not go down without a fight. We may not have heard the last from this one.

With Weekend Music Radio from Scotland testing regularly (with very good results) to North America lately, Europe has been on the minds of many pirate DXers. Although many of us have been hunting for other stations on 41 and 48 meters, few have had any luck.

However, this may soon change. With the results from WMR, more stations may soon be testing to this continent. Probably the three most likely stations to receive here are Radio East Coast Commercial, Radio Orion, and Wonderful Free Radio London (WFRL). These stations are all from the United Kingdom and operate on frequencies above the 41 meter band.

One of the best possibilities for North American reception is WFRL when they test to this continent. When the station tests, the broadcasts last 24 hours (1) and they could show up on 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 25 mHz. Fortunately, operator Andy Walker schedules his tests in advance, so hopefully these details will be received over here in time to get them in print. Like most Europirates, this one is heavy in pop music, but also features a great amount of pirate DX news.

Radio East Coast Commercial broadcasts on most Sundays from 1000 to 1300 UTC on 6815 kHz. A parallel transmitter on 11515 kHz was scheduled to be on the air in August. Like WFRL, RECC is also into pirate DX news. They

even air news and information from North America. The address for both this and WFRL is: PO Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU, UK.

Radio Orion regularly broadcasts on Saturdays 1100-1200 and Sundays 1015-1200 UTC on 6300 (or 6815) and sometimes 23990 kHz. Despite the high frequency, I've yet to see any reports of this in mainland Europe, although its groundwave is sometimes reported in the UK. The address for Orion is: PB 1280, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8SG, UK. And don't mention "Radio" on the envelope.

The Voice of the Netherlands is now up to 500 watts on some Sundays on 7490 anywhere from 0800-1300. This one has had the strongest reports of the hobby pirates across Europe. Like many of the Dutch pirates, VotN's modulation is a bit rough. The address is: Box 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, Holland.

Last on the list is the famous Europirate Radio Dublin, which has been dropped in status to a mere hobby pirate. Now that the government has cracked down on pirates in Ireland, Radio Dublin may be facing its end. It has had all of its transmitters confiscated, but its still on the AM, FM, and SW frequencies with back-up equipment. Presently, the 6910 kHz transmitter is running 40 watts. Address for this is: 58 Inchicore Rd., Kilmainham, Dublin 8, Ireland.

#### COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

The listing below is in no way a complete listing. We have had several recent requests for information about the various abbreviations used in the *A\*C\*E*.

abt.....	about	R.....	radio
addr.....	address	sig.....	signal
CW.....	morse code	SIO:	Signal, interference, overall. "Yardstick" to measure these characteristics of bcstr's transmissions. 5 is excellent, 1 is not usable.
de.....	from	s/off.....	sign-off
egmt.....	equipment	s/on.....	sign-on
ID.....	identification	SSB.....	single sideband
IS.....	interval signal	stn.....	station
MW.....	medium wave	SW.....	shortwave
mx.....	music	TC.....	time checks
nx.....	news	tnx.....	thanks
pgm.....	program	ute.....	utility station
PSE.....	please	var.....	various, varied
QRM.....	interference, man-made	w/.....	with
QRN.....	interference, static	wx.....	weather
QRT.....	sign-off	xmsn.....	transmission
QSO.....	conversation	xmtr.....	transmitter
QTH.....	location		

Publication Review: "The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory"  
by George Zeller

Many times I've received questions from new ACE members regarding sources of information about pirate radio broadcasting and broadcasters. Up until now, I could not refer anyone to a good general book about current un-licensed broadcast activity. Except for referring to back issues of the ACE, no such publication existed.

The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory provides basic information about listening to pirates, where in the shortwave spectrum these stations are often found, when they are usually on, and what receiving equipment is best for hearing these often weak stations. The Directory also has tips on QSLing pirates, and covers many good methods to increase your QSL totals. Also included are references for sources of current pirate radio information, with the ACE prominently listed in this field.

The main content of the Directory is the station-by-station description listing 51 N.A. pirate broadcast stations heard during the past year (just a few are included for historical interest, which had not broadcast in 1988.) There is short section of about a half dozen European pirates at the end of the book.

Each descriptive listing of a station includes a bit of history on the station; when they had first been heard, and data on the station's programming. The narratives demonstrate George's in-depth knowledge about pirate radio. He has captured the flavor and diversity of the stations heard last year. Reading through the pages reminds one why listening to these stations is so much fun! Included with the commentaries are copies of many QSL's, presumably from George's collection.

The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory is highly recommended for the pirate radio enthusiasts of all experience levels.

The 1989 Pirate Radio Directory can be obtained from Tiare Publications: P.O.B. 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. Cost is \$6.00 plus \$1.00 shipping. Tell them the ACE sent you!

Also available from Tiare Publications is this additional book by ACE editor: Uno, Dos, Cuatro: A Guide to the Number Stations & Los Numeros: The Numbers Stations Log, by Havana Moon. The former costs \$14.95 including shipping, and the later costs \$5 inc. shipping.

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#### ICOM R-9000

During recent business and pleasure trips to the Columbus, Ohio area, I stopped in several times at Universal Shortwave Radio's store in Reynoldsburg. Fred Osterman has a new \$4,795 ICOM R-9000 receiver set up in working order on the display bench at the Universal showroom. With options, tax, and shipping, this receiver's retail price shoots up well into the \$5,000 range. This exceeds the price for some new cars! The brand new radio is one helluva gizmo. Its most novel feature is a built-in CRT display that functions as a spectrum monitor, a RTTY copy display, a television video monitor, etc. The set covers 100 KHz to 1999.8 KHz, and therefore is sort of a deluxe combination of the Japan Radio NRD-525 HF superset and the ICOM R-7000 deluxe VHF/UHF receiver. I tried out the R-9000 on Radio Quince de Septiembre on 6214.4 KHz, and the receiver easily filtered out Radio Caroline on 6215 KHz in LSB ECSS mode. But, I am not going to buy one of these anytime soon, unless I suddenly become rich. My wallet would complain very loudly about the \$5,000 drain.

#### THANKS!

In September we thank direct contributors Bob Ross (Ontario), Gerry Dexter (Wisconsin), Rich D'Angelo (Pennsylvania), Don Jensen (Wisconsin), and George Zeller (Ohio). Since A\*C\*E is holding to the aforementioned regular monthly publishing schedule, we need information and loggings for this column by the 16th of every month. We hope to hear from you by September 16 with stuff for the October A\*C\*E "Clandestine Profile."

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The pirate broadcast used the identification, "World Wide National Public Radio" and the call sign "WNPR." A large part of its program was music.

Meyers and Newman were issued notices of apparent liability (fines) in the amount of \$750.

Meyers declined to come to the phone to talk about the broadcast. One person at the Meyers residence said Meyers has been a radio amateur for about 30 years and "he would never be involved in something like this." Another said Meyers was denying any involvement, and was not speaking to anyone about it on the advice of his attorney. A third person at the Meyers residence said Newman has moved out from the area. Efforts to reach Newman were unsuccessful.

From the ANARC BBS . . .

Mag#: 4923 \*SW ECHO\*  
08/20/89 06:48:40  
From: ANDY SENNITT  
To: ALL  
Subj: RADIO CAROLINE OFF AIR

.RM65/On Saturday 19th August, Officials from the Dutch PTT and their British counterparts boarded the radio ship Ross Revenge in the North Sea. The officials reportedly stayed on board for two hours. During their visit, all the broadcast transmitters on board the radio ship went off the air, and the station is now silent. The action is understood to have been taken due to complaints from more than one country about interference to shipping traffic from the station's shortwave transmitter on 6215kHz. There is indeed a European sailing frequency very close to this channel. Radio Caroline indicated some months ago that it was looking for a better shortwave frequency, but nothing happened.

We'll keep you posted on this story - and listen to Media Network for the very latest developments.

Mag#: 4925 \*SW ECHO\*  
08/20/89 08:58:07  
From: LYNN BURKE  
To: ALL  
Subj: RADIO CAROLINE

From Associated Press, Aug. 19  
AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) -- Authorities from four European nations boarded an offshore f\*rock'n' roll radio station in international waters on the North Sea Saturday and forced it to close, Dutch television reported. The crackdown on Radio Caroline followed complaints that the privately owned station disrupted ship-to-shore radio communications on one of Europe's busiest shipping lanes, according to the television report. Radio Caroline, an English-language rock station broadcasting mainly for British and Dutch listeners, was one of three stations using the Ross Revenge transmitter ship anchored in international waters off the Dutch coast, the report said.

Dutch, British, French and Belgian authorities went aboard the ship Saturday while Radio Caroline was on the air and impounded record players and transmission equipment, the report said. Radio Caroline was using the offshore transmitter to avoid restrictive media controls in Britain and the Netherlands.

Under maritime law, authorities do not normally have the right to board ships in international waters. The television report said authorities regarded it as legal to board the Ross Revenge because the ship wasn't flying a flag and could therefore be considered stateless.

Included in the report was a fragment of Radio Caroline's last broadcast, with an unidentified disc jockey saying "It's the saddest day of my life ... Radio Caroline, we love you too much to leave you forever."

ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS \*  
P. O. Box 11201 \*  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207-0201 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The A\*C\*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A\*C\*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A\*C\*E is for you!

Our Editors ...

John Arthur ..... Veried Response  
Kirk Baxter ..... Dialogs  
Harry Helms ..... Covert Corner  
Havana Moon .....  
Andrew Yoder ..... DX Clip Board  
George Zeller ..... Clandestine Profile

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